

Germantown Community Theatre

SEASON 54

"HADESTOWN" Teen Edition

Jul 24th - Aug 3rd, 2025
at The KROC Center
Director - Christina Hernandez
Music Director - Adam Jeffrey
Choreographer - Abbie Martin

"THE HOUSE"

by Savannah S. Miller
Jan 28th - Feb 1st, 2026
Creative team collaboration with
Cazateatro Bilingual Theatre Group

"NUNSENSE" the Musical

Sept 12th - 28th, 2025
Director - Elizabeth Perkins
Music Director - Eileen Kuo
Choreographer - Christi Hall
Sponsors Rusty & Donna Chandler Newman

"GODSPELL" the Musical

Feb 27th - Mar 15th, 2026
Director - Jaclyn Suffel
Music Director - Nathan McHenry
Choreographer - Daniel Stuart Nelson

"FRANKENSTEIN"

adapted by Nick Dear
Oct 23rd - Nov 2nd, 2025
Director - James Kevin Cochran
Stage Manager - JJ Townsend

"JULIUS CAESAR"

all female cast
Apr 17th - May 3rd, 2026
Director - Meghan Lisi Lewis
Sponsor Alia Wealth Partners

"ANNIE JR." the Musical

Dec 5th - 21st, 2025
including weekday student matinees
Director - Rose Blakeman

"FALSETTOS"

William Finn Musical
Jun 5th - 21st, 2026
Director - Jordan Nichols
Music Director - Gary Beard

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Creative Partner Donors rewarded with tickets & invites!

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS.

Department of
Theatre and Dance

presents

EMERGE

New Student Dance Works

produced by
Rachael Arnwine

with pieces by
Katy Baker, Alexia Cole, Morgan Doss, Giovanni Gorostieta,
Kelby Hicks, Excellence Hinds, Erin McKee,
Libby Morrison, and Breanna Oliver

Funding provided by SAF and
The College of Communication and Fine Arts.

University of Memphis Dance is a proud partner of

DANCE
MEMPHIS
MOVING TOGETHER



Sonder

Choreographer: Katy Baker

Music: Oren Lavie, Frightened Rabbit

Light Design: Drew Hamby

Costume Design: B'lynn Evans

Dancers: John Lucas Daniels, Morgan Doss, LaShawn Edwards,

Excellence Hinds, Libby Morrison, Taylor Townsend

Wheel of Fortune

Choreographer: Kelby Hicks

Music: Kelela

Light Design: Chloe Smith

Costume Design: E. Blaha

Dancers: Aphrodite Morman, Teryn Rodriguez, Paris Smith

Broken Together

Choreographer: Alexia Cole

Music: Joe L Barnes, Danny Gokey, Sunny Ray Choir

Light Design: Elliott Norton

Costume Design: Maya Holmes

Dancers: Katy Baker, Kendall Fagan, Eleanor Fults, Niya Taylor

Silent Strength

Choreographer: Morgan Doss

Music: Marian Hill, Aquilo, Whitney Houston;
spoken poem written by Morgan Doss herself!

Light Design: Elliott Norton

Costume Design: Margaret Andrews

Dancer: Kamita Faison

Symbiosis

Choreographer: Libby Morrison

Music: Cosmo Sheldrake

Light Design: Lyz Rieger

Costume Design: Casey Gurlen

Dancers: Morgan Doss, Adriyana Hester, Erin McKee,
Breanna Oliver, Teryn Rodriguez, Shayrion Williams

Teryn Rodriguez is a freshman Dance Science major in her second semester at the University of Memphis. She was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she has nurtured her dance career since the age of three. She has a wide range of professional dance experience, including graduating from Chattanooga's Center for Creative Arts as a principal dancer, attending Governor's School, and now participating in the University of Memphis Dance program. Deeply rooted in the dance world, Teryn hopes to continue her journey by becoming not only a professional dancer, but also a physical therapist specializing in dance injuries. "I am so excited to delve deeper into the world of dance and see where the University can take me!" (she/her)

Chloe Smith is a senior BFA Entertainment Design and Technology student with an emphasis in Lighting. Previous roles at the university include Production Electrician for *Chicago* and the Light Designer for Tamara Franklin's piece in *Home*. (she/they)

Niya Taylor is a senior Psychology major with a minor in Dance. She is super grateful to join *Emerge* for one last performance at U of M! Some of her previous performances include *Memory House*, *Emerge 2025*, *Home*, and *Chicago* (featured dancer). She would like to thank her professors for all their support and training and also her family for the continued support. (she/her)

Markela Thomas is a multidisciplinary dancer currently trained in ballet and contemporary with roots in hip-hop and freestyle. She loves dance because it allows her to express emotion, tell stories, and connect with others beyond words. Through movement, she also finds freedom, healing, and joy, striving to create performances that feel honest, intentional, and deeply motivated. (she/her)

Taylor Townsend is a sophomore BFA Dance major with a focus on everything dance. This is her first year with the University of Memphis as a Dance major. She performed in *Home* last semester and is now performing in *Emerge*. (she/her)

Dylan Whiteaker is a freshman at the University of Memphis pursuing a BFA in Acting. During his time at the university, he has performed in this semester's musical *As You Like It* as William/Arden ensemble. This is Dylan's first dance concert here at the university and in his career. He would like to thank his family and all of the people who support him for their continued support as he dives deeper and deeper into this art form! Please enjoy *Emerge*! (he/him)

Shayrion Williams is a freshman with a strong passion for dance. She is currently training in ballet, contemporary, and jazz, and she loves being able to express herself through movement. Dance has helped her grow as a performer and as a person by building her confidence, discipline, and creativity. Performing allows her to connect with others in a meaningful way. "I'm so excited to be part of this performance and grateful for the opportunity to share my love of dance with you." (she/her)

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

Erin McKee is a senior Theatre major with a concentration in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. Erin is elated to make her choreographic debut with “Meet Cute” and dance alongside her peers one last time. Erin’s previous U of M credits include *Home*, *Memory House*, *Emerge 2023*, *Into The Woods*, *Elektra*, *The Most Happy Fella*, and *Chicago*. Erin dedicates her piece to her family and thanks her friends Jerm and KB for making this process a dream come true! @erinkmckee (she/her)

Olivia Mittag is thrilled to be stage managing her first dance show with the department! Previous favorite U of M credits include *Chicago* (SM), *Ride the Cyclone* (SM), and *Into the Woods* (SM), as well as *The Most Happy Fella* (ASM). She was also the ASM for Ballet Memphis’s *The Nutcracker* for both the 2024 and 2025 productions. She would like to thank her wonderful cast and crew, and especially her stellar ASMs Landon, Logan, and Recco, for joining her on this trip! Love always to her people, who keep her going! (she/her)

Aphrodite Morman is a freshman in the Dance program at U of M. “I’m really excited to be performing in this show and I am very grateful to have the opportunity to dance in the piece I was cast in.” (she/her)

Libby Morrison is a junior BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Dance Science. This is her first time choreographing for *Emerge* and she is deeply honored with the opportunity. She will also be performing in Katy Baker’s and Excellence Hinds’s pieces. Libby was last seen performing in the previous year’s Fall concert *Home* and Spring concert *Emerge*, and has also danced in *Memory House*, *Emerge 360*, and *Chroma*. She is beyond grateful for her beautiful cast and their inspiring dedication to bringing this work to life. Libby would also like to thank her family for their steadfast love and support. (she/her)

Breanna Oliver is a senior Dance major at the University of Memphis. She is thrilled to be performing in her final show at the University of Memphis while also choreographing for the first time. This piece conveys a message that is very close and personal to her heart. Her previous performance credits include *Home* (faculty piece), *Emerge* (2025), and *Memory House* (faculty piece, 2024). Breanna is deeply thankful for the support of her peers, teachers, and parents, and extends special gratitude to her best friend, Amani, for her constant encouragement. (she/her)

Lyz Rieger is a senior BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Entertainment Design and Technology, with an emphasis in sound and costumes at the University of Memphis. Just a few of her most recent credits with the University of Memphis include *As It Is in Heaven* (Sound Design) and *Home* (Lighting Design), as well as Playhouse on the Square’s production of *Tragedy Sound* (Sound Design). She is also involved in the University of Memphis’s upcoming production of *The Night Witches* (Costume Design) in April. Lyz is incredibly thankful to be part of this amazing production! (she/her)

Meet Cute

Choreographer: Erin McKee
Music: Nancy Wilson, Nat King Cole, Dinah Washington
Light Design: Robert Kovacs
Costume Design: Maya Holmes
Dancers: Katy Baker, Jeremiah McDonald

Il Viaggio di un Cervello

Choreographer: Giovanni Gorostieta
Music: Tony Effe, Mahmood, Ketama126
Light Design: Robert Kovacs
Costume Design: B’lynn Evans
Dancers: Alexia Cole, Eleanor Fults, Kelby Hicks, Breanna Oliver, Alexander Osborne, Dylan Whiteaker

Letting the Mask Fall

“The brightest smile can hide the deepest storm.”

Choreographer: Breanna Oliver
Music: Skott, Sigur Rós, Sia; spoken poem by @flowersfrompain
Light Design: Robert Kovacs
Costume Design: Margaret Andrews
Dancers: Noah Anderson, Logan Bass, Mya Hawkins, Teryn Rodriguez
Understudy: Kamita Faison

Perspective

Choreographer: Excellence Hinds
Music: Lady Gaga, Baby Tate, Beyonce, Kendrick Lamar, Doechi
Light Design: Elliott Norton
Costume Design: Margaret Andrews
Dancers: Kamita Faison, Erin McKee, Libby Morrison, Markela Thomas, Taylar Townswend

One Last Time

Senior Piece
Choreographers and Dancers: Morgan Doss, Giovanni Gorostieta, Adriyana Hester, Excellence Hinds, Erin McKee, Breanna Oliver, Niya Taylor
Music: One Republic, Coldplay, Pitbull & Christina Aguilera
Light Design: Drew Hamby, Lyz Rieger, Chloe Smith

PRODUCTION STAFF

Claire Carvajal
Technical Director

Samantha Mejias Zigmant
Sound Designer

Holly L. Derr
Artistic Director

Amy Salerno Hale
Production Manager

Stage Manager Olivia Mittag
Assistant Stage Managers..... Logan Bass, Landon Graham, Recco Sargent
Lighting Console Operator Hezekiah Howze
Production Electrician..... Anthony Pellecchia
Costume Shop Manager Kathleen Kovarik
Costume Shop Staff..... Margaret Andrews, E. Blaha, B'lynn Evans
Wardrobe Crew..... LaShawn Edwards, Zoe Vales
Sound Console Operator..... Klair Soukup
Backstage Crew Logan Bass, Landon Graham, Recco Sargent
House Manager..... Max Robinson

Special Thanks

We gratefully acknowledge:

Debra Burns, Dean, College of Communication and Fine Arts

Jacob Allen, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

Kinon Keplinger, Financial Services Associate

Lane and Circle Music

Bernard & Mary Laws of RP Tracks for generously providing our season posters

This show will use haze, strobe lighting effects, and sudden loud noises.

As sensitivities vary from person to person, we do not offer advisories about subject matter; if you have any questions about content, please speak with the house manager.

Adriyana Hester is a senior Health Science major with a minor in Dance. *Emerge 2026* marks her final performance at the University of Memphis, and she is incredibly grateful for the opportunities, experiences, and connections she has gained throughout her time here. Adriyana is thankful to have shared the stage with inspiring dancers and choreographers, creating memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. While it is bittersweet to say goodbye, she is excited to see what the future holds for herself and her castmates. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant love and unconditional support. (she/her)

Kelby Hicks is a junior Dance major, using his talents to bring shared joy for music and dance. He is a dancer of ten-plus years and would like to further his training as far as the sun reaches the stars. "The piece that I am choreographing means so much to me. It is a prayer that no matter what the wheel is always turning and that it can turn in your favor. Thank you to the University of Memphis for all of the support it has given me. Each dancer in 'The Wheel of Fortune' has grown to feel like family so as the choreographer I motivate them to believe in themselves in this journey of life pursuing dance." (he/him)

Excellence Hinds is a senior Theatre major with a concentration in Dance Science. This will be Excellence's fourth dance concert within the University, including *Memory House*, *Emerge 2025*, and *Home*. She has performed as a guest dancer with EveryStory. She is excited to be a part of *Emerge 2026* as a dancer and as a first-time choreographer. She has a BFA in Psychology from Clark Atlanta University. She plans on using both degrees to become a dance movement therapist. She thanks everyone that has supported her through this journey. (she/her)

Maya June Holmes is a senior BFA Entertainment Design and Technology major at the University of Memphis with a concentration in scenic design and technology. Recent credits include *As It Is In Heaven* (Scenic Designer, University of Memphis), *Home: A Faculty Dance Concert* (Scenic Designer, University of Memphis), *An Evening In Italy* triple bill opera (Props Artisan, University of Memphis), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Scenic Carpenter and Scenic Charge Artist, Tennessee Shakespeare Company), and *Something Rotten!* (Scenic Artist and Props Artisan, Theatre Memphis). Maya finds constant inspiration in the beauty, resilience, and imagination that define both her personal and creative life. This milestone marks an exciting expansion of her artistic voice, and she is grateful for the opportunity to explore costume design as an extension of the worlds she builds.

Jeremiah McDonald is so excited to be a part of this wonderful production of *Emerge!* He is a senior at the University of Memphis pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Most recent theatre credits include *As You Like It* (Orlando), *Chicago* (ensemble), *Something Rotten!* (ensemble/Bard Boy/Nigel US), *Punk Rock Girl!* (Dudley), *Parade* (ensemble/Jim Conley US) *Grease* (ensemble/Sonny/Johnny Casino US) *Cinderella* (ensemble), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (ensemble), and *Elektra* (Orestes). He wants to thank his family and friends, as well as his girlfriend Mac White for their endless support. Hope you enjoy the show!! (he/him)

Kamita Faison is a freshman majoring in Dance Science. She has been dancing since she was three years old, and grew up in the competition world. Dance is where her heart is and she plans on keeping that journey going in the future. Her life is nothing without dance in it. (she/her)

Eleanor Fults is a junior Biology major from Tullahoma, Tennessee. She is so excited to perform in her third dance concert at the University of Memphis! Eleanor would like to thank her family, friends, and the U of M Dance Department for their continuous support of her love and passion for dance. (she/her)

Giovanny Gorostieta is a senior, Memphis-raised, Fashion Design major with a double minor in Italian Studies and Dance. He has previously been a dancer for Wayne Smith in *Memory House* (2024) and *Home* (2025). He also performed at the Texas Dance Improvisation Festival in fall of 2025. His work consists of Improv fused with modern contemporary with cultural spins. Giovanny wants to focus his art on different cultures and languages to spread awareness. *Emerge* will be his third show at the University of Memphis, and he is thrilled to showcase his first choreographic piece and grateful for all the support!

Landon Graham is excited to be a part of *Emerge*, and to try out the backstage role for the first time! His previous U of M productions have been on stage, productions such as *The Most Happy Fella* (Herman), *Vices: A Love Story* (Albert), and *Chicago* (Billy Flynn). He has also been a part of dance concerts such as *Emerge 2025* and *Home*. He is excited to help put on a wonderful production with the cast and crew and thanks you for joining them tonight!

Amy Salerno Hale holds a BFA in Theatre and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Memphis, where she now serves as Production Manager for the Department of Theatre and Dance. She supports her colleagues through thoughtful administration and hopes to inspire the next generation of stage managers. Previously, she spent over 16 years as Production Stage Manager and Volunteer Director at Theatre Memphis. Amy is also an experienced event manager, producing the National Civil Rights Museum's Freedom Award and other local events. She values creative collaboration and believes in the power of individuals contributing their unique gifts to build strong, vibrant communities.

Drew Hamby is a senior BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Entertainment Design and Technology and an emphasis in Sound Engineering/Design. Previous lighting credits at the university include *Home* (Lighting Designer) and *Emerge 2025* (Co-Lighting Designer). Previous audio credits at the university include *As You Like It* (Sound Designer), *Chicago* (A1/FOH Mixer), *The Most Happy Fella* (Audio Engineer), and *Ride The Cyclone* (A2). Regional audio credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Sound Designer/FOH Mixer, Allie Award Nominee) and *Driving Miss Daisy* (Sound Designer/FOH Mixer, Allie Award Winner) at Panola Playhouse. (she/her)

SET AND PROP CONSTRUCTION CREW

Julia Kowalski, Patrice J. Nelms, Mollie West
with

Jade Amburgey, Rachel Bonner, Madelyn Cobb, Alexia Cole,
Madeline Comer, John Lucas Daniels, Miles Goble, Landon Graham,
Excellence Hinds, Maya Holmes, August Hughes, Cade Jett, Savannah Jones,
Cheyenne McDonough, Erin McKee, Aphrodite Morman, Alexander Osborne,
Brylee Pusser, Xavier Saine, LA Smith, Sam Sparrow, Joan Townsend,
Shayrion Williams, Destini Woods, Maya Woods

Scenic Advisor: Brian Ruggaber

LIGHTING AND SOUND CREW

Klair Soukup, Rowan Sullivan, Samantha Mejias Zigmant
with

Jade Amburgey, Katie Blackburn, Annabelle Crihfield, LaShawn Edwards,
Jacob Galloway, Drew Hamby, Kelby Hicks, Hezekiah Howze,
Robert Kovacs, Aphrodite Morman, Elliott Norton,
Alexander Osborne, Lyz Rieger, Niya Taylor

Lighting and Sound Advisor: Anthony Pellecchia

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW

Margaret Andrews, E. Blaha, B'lynn Evans
with

Brady Ballard, Maddox Bierman, Victoria Black, Katie Blackburn,
Erin Clark, Giovanny Gorostieta, Casey Gurlen, Caelan Ingram, Savannah Jones,
Alya Suchana Perez, Charis Peters, El Pike, Elisabeth Reinagel, Kennedy Rhyne,
Teryn Rodriguez, Recco Sargent, KJ Spring, Niya Taylor, Zoe Vales

Costume Advisor: Kenann Quander

PUBLICITY CREW

Max Robinson
with

Kelby Hicks, Daniel Hughes, Aniya Lance, Samantha Love,
Jeremiah McDonald, Charis Peters, Shalon Scruggs, Bryce Seay,
LA Smith, Sydnei Sutton, Niya Taylor, Zoe Vales

Communications Specialist: Emily Draffen

Noah Anderson, a freshman dance major at University of Memphis, is excited to make his debut with the University in *Emerge*. His previous dance performances include being a featured dance performer in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Legally Blonde* at Collierville High School. He would like to thank his previous and current theatrical art educators and supporters for giving him the tools to be able to create art that he enjoys. He would also like to thank Breanna Oliver for placing the trust in him to tell the story she wants to convey in her piece.

Margaret Andrews is a first-year MFA candidate with a focus in Costume Design at the University of Memphis. Her previous design credits include *Emerge 2025* (Costume Designer), *Home* (Costume Designer), and *Chicago* (Assistant Costume Designer). Her previous technical credits include *As It Is In Heaven*, *Home*, and *As You Like It*. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her! (she/her)

Rachael Arnwine is an assistant professor and Head of Dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance. A Memphis native and graduate of The University of Memphis, she holds an MS in Exercise, Sport, & Movement Sciences, a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Dance, and a BS in Exercise, Sport, & Movement Sciences. Rachael has performed with Tennessee Ballet Theater, Opera Memphis, Hot Foot Honeys, Racine + Southern Dance Exchange, and in music videos for artists such as Julien Baker and Brennan Villines. She is a certified board member of the Southern Association of Dance Masters as well as the International Association of Dance Medicine & Science where she is a published author in the Journal of Dance Medicine & Science. Her specific interests lie within dance science, bridging dance with kinesiology and research in injury mechanisms. In addition, she is a dance instructor at local dance studios in the Memphis community and a freelance choreographer.

Katye Baker is a junior BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Dance Science. She is so excited to get to dance and choreograph for her third *Emerge!* Katye has previously been seen in *Home*, *Memory House*, *Chroma*, and *Emerge360*. She has also been assistant choreographer for *Chicago* and is currently assistant choreographer for *The Night Witches*. Beyond her work in the department, she shares her passion for dance, teaching young dancers in the Memphis community. Katye is thrilled for you to see this show, and she would like to thank her people for their unwavering love and support. (she/her)

Logan Bass is a freshman BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Dance and Musical Theatre. Some of his past credits with the University of Memphis include: Mary Sunshine (*Chicago*), Dancer (*Home*), and Frankie Flow/Court Ensemble (*As You Like It*). Logan is so thankful to have a place where he can learn and grow as a dancer alongside the people he loves most, and he hopes you leave inspired by the movement in this show! (he/him)

Maddox Bierman is a freshman acting major ready to make his Dance Concert debut! He has recently been seen at U of M in *As You Like It* (Caveman) and *Chicago* (Fred Casely). Previous credits include Kyle in *Legally Blonde* (HSMFTA nom) and Ron Weasley in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* at Draco Playhouse. He can't wait to share this wonderful performance with everyone. (he/him)

Claire Carvajal is the Assistant Technical Director at U of M. After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin in 2017, she taught middle school theatre and built a thriving program. Claire then moved to teach high school technical theatre and was promoted to lead the department. Before coming here, she served as the Technical Director of a private school near Atlanta, Georgia. Claire values educational spaces that make students feel heard, seen, and supported, and inspires them to lead with empathy and curiosity. She believes that anything is possible on the stage, and loves being on the team to make that magic happen (through to-do-lists and hard work!).

Alexia Cole is a junior Theatre major with a concentration in Dance. This is her first time being involved in *Emerge!* She is not only performing in *Emerge* for the first time, but she is also choreographing! She had been previously featured in the U of M's run of *Memory House* and *Home*. She thoroughly enjoys dancing and hopes to further her career in this field by nurturing the next generation of performers. She would like to thank her family for supporting her, and her mom and her sister for leaving a strong legacy behind for her to follow. She hopes you enjoy the show! (she/her)

John Lucas Daniels is so excited to be in his first ever dance concert! He is a sophomore earning his BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Recent university credits include *Chicago* (Amos Hart), *As You Like It* (Duke Frederick), *The Most Happy Fella* (Clem/ensemble), and *Vices: A Love Story* (Vocalist). He wants to thank his wonderful choreographer and castmates for being so welcoming and making this experience so amazing! Enjoy the show! (he/him)

Morgan Doss is a senior BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Dance Science with an emphasis in physical therapy. This is her fifth performance with the University. She has been in *Chroma* (2023), *Emerge* (2024), *Memory House* (2024), and *Chicago* (2025) as a featured dancer. She has been dancing for 15 years now and plans to continue that passion and put it into helping other dancers during rehabilitation as well. (she/her)

LaShawn Edwards is deeply grateful to return to the stage after a 20-year hiatus from dance and is excited to be part of this production. Now a Theatre Arts/Dance science major at the University of Memphis, she approaches movement with renewed purpose, blending artistry with lived experience. LaShawn is also a National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach (NBHWC), committed to helping others cultivate healing, balance and self-connection through Holistic Wellness. She is a devoted wife, proud mom, and dedicated fur baby parent who believes that returning to what you love can be one of life's most powerful acts of courage. (she/her)

Kendall Fagan is a sophomore BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Dance and a BS Ed Early Childhood Education major. She is an alumna of Ballet Memphis School and is currently a ballet teacher in the Memphis community. *Emerge 2026* is Kendall's fourth performance with the University of Memphis Dance Department. Her previous performances include *Memory House* (2024), *Emerge* (2025), and *Home* (2025). Kendall is thrilled to be a part of this fully student-produced dance concert. She would like to thank all her teachers, friends, and family for their continual support of her endeavors! (she/her)